

Hofchner

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

January 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: BUD McFARLANE

Tom Korologos called to report a long conversation he had with Braswell yesterday in which the latter expressed Stennis' general disgruntlement over the "mismanagement of the CIA problem." While Stennis has no specific criticism and Tom felt he just wanted to be consulted, Tom felt that the latter point had some merit and ought to be taken seriously. Stennis expects that unless there is an early dialogue between the White House and appropriate Congressional leaders (to include Stennis), at least four separate attacks will be well launched without our being able to do anything about it. For example, the Demo caucus will meet on Monday and the leaders will try to get endorsement for establishing a "select committee to investigate the CIA domestic activities" ala Sam Ervin. This ~~would~~ be in addition to the work of the oversight committees, Foreign Relations, Muskie and others.

I asked Tom if he was certain of the last point since the Demo caucus effort could be a Mansfield initiative to centralize the inquiry in one body. Tom wasn't certain but stated that Stennis felt that since he had not been consulted by Mansfield, that the select committee idea might not necessarily be good; that is, he believes Mansfield would have to put on it at least two or three Liberals. Further, since even Mansfield recognizes that the House cannot be cut out of the action, that the select committee might be a joint effort and would include a few freshman Liberals out to make a name for themselves.

Two points can be drawn from the above. (1) Is the Vice President or the Executive Director of the Citizens Committee talking to the key Congressional players (not only Mansfield and Albert but Stennis, Hebert, Braswell, Nedzi, and others. (2) Is it not in the Vice President's interest to recognize Stennis' importance in a very concrete way (I say this rhetorically -- obviously he does). One way to manifest it, however, is by having one of Stennis' people on the staff. In this regard, Gene Ainsworth who is very close to Stennis (Gene is a Mississippi Democrat)

NSS Review Completed.

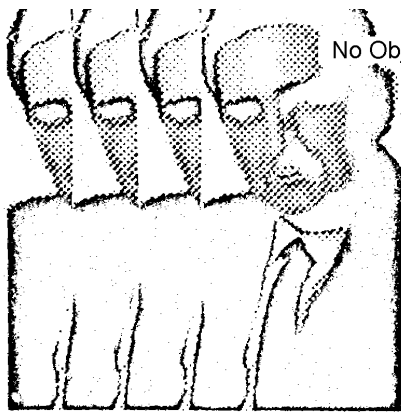
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urges that the Vice President consider taking on William Spell, a former legislative aide, press spokesman and political advisor to Stennis. The attached doesn't provide much basis for judging Spell (see Tab B), but Ainsworth is very high on him as a man of highest integrity with the closest ties to Stennis. Stan Kimmet has already endorsed Spell directly to Jim Cannon on the Vice President's staff. If you wish to further endorse Spell's candidacy, you could send the attached memorandum to Cannon (Tab A).

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT
SUBJECT: Citizens Commission Support Staff

This is to bring to your attention the interest of Mr. William E. Spell in serving on the staff of the Citizens Commission. Although I do not know Mr. Spell personally, he has been recommended as a man of great integrity and knowledge of the statutory charter governing CIA operations. For further information concerning Mr. Spell, I would refer you to Senator Stennis with whom Mr. Spell served for six years.

RMc;nm:1/10/75



No Objection to Declassification in Full 2013/03/26 : LOC-HAK-58-6-9-2

Public Relations
Association of Louisiana
Presents

BILL SPELL

PRINCE MURAT INN

Monday, March 26 6:30 p.m.

Public Relations executive, attorney, former aide to Senator John Stennis, part-owner and public affairs counsel of Godwin Advertising Agency, Inc., of Jackson, Mississippi.

"A damn good operator. . . very knowledgeable on details. He has the kind of rapport personally with people needed to move an operation, very forthright, while showing the proper reserve when necessary."

—Clark Mollenhoff, former Pulitzer prize winning journalist for the Des Moines (Iowa) Register-Tribune and now deputy counsel to President Nixon

"... we at CBS have a very small list, maybe two or three persons, of whom we consider totally straight. Among them is Bill Spell."

—Sylvia Westernman, Producer of Columbia Broadcasting System's "Face the Nation"

"It is people like Bill Spell and his Senator who make us stop and think and not be just kneejerk liberals."

—Sylvia Westernman

"I would rate Bill Spell almost above everybody!"

—Sylvia Westernman

"So far as I know he is more thoroughly trusted than any other senate employee. If he tells us something, he tells the truth; otherwise, he doesn't say it."

—Robert McCormick, NBC Capitol Correspondent and past president of the Radio-Television Correspondent Association

"I've never heard anything derogatory about him and that's a hell of an achievement in this town."

—Robert McCormick

This is the year his contemporaries speak of Bill Spell. . . coming to speak to the new Public Relations Association of Louisiana on March 26th

A practicing public relations professional of the first order, Bill Spell has a simple credo, which he outlines as follows:

"You've got to know what the facts are. The facts have got to support your position. Then you have to communicate those facts in such a way as to get to the people your strong points and your adversary's weak points. There's no sleight of hand involved. . . just a matter of using your resources."

That he followed this formula and that it led him to enviable success while serving as a top assistant to Senator John Stennis, is most evident.

His career with Senator Stennis lasted some six years, during which time it was said of him that "he was the motivating force behind Stennis in his nationally-heralded confrontations with Defense Secretary Robert McNamara and HEW Secretary Robert Finch."

Probably no congressional aide in Washington had more personal entree to the inner circles of politics in our nation capital than did Bill Spell.

Probably no one is better informed on the "ins and outs," the excitement, and the routines than is Bill Spell.

It will be a real experience for PRAL members to hear his remarks on a most provocative subject on March 26.

Bill is a native of Georgetown, Miss., and spent the early years of his professional life on the working staffs of the Jackson Daily News and the Clarion-Ledger, and Radio Station WSLI, where he initiated the first daily broadcast reports from the Mississippi Legislature.

A graduate of Mississippi College, he is also a graduate of the Jackson School of Law, and is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association. He currently holds the rank of Colonel in the U. S. Air Force Reserve, assigned as special assistant to the Commander USAF Systems Command.

"WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT WASHINGTON, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK."

WILLIAM E. "BILL" SPELL

former aide to
Senator John Stennis of Mississippi

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

DATE: Monday, March 26, 1973

PLACE: Prince Murat Inn
Nicholson Drive

CASH BAR

DINNER \$6.00 PER PERSON

Please Call
Jack Sanders — 357-8641
no later than Friday, March 23